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CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (h) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/535,015
Filing Date	March 24, 2000
First Named Inventor	Shunpei YAMAZAKI et al.
Group Art Unit	2811
Examiner Name	S. Crane
Attorney Docket Number	0756-2131

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

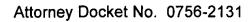
1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114									
	a.		Previously submitted						
		i.		Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).					
		ii.		Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on					
		iii.		Other .					
	b.	X	Enclo	osed					
		i.	X	Amendment/Reply					
		ii.		Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)	- 1				
		iii.		Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)					
		iv.	X	Other: Petition for Extension of Time	- 1				
2.	N	liscell	cellaneous						
	a.		Other: Petition for Extension of Time Scellaneous Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(l) required) Other The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account						
	b.		Other	er	-				
3.	F	ees	The	The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.					
	a.		The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account						
		No							
		No							
		ii. Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)							
		iii.							
	b.								
	C.		Paym	nent by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)					
				SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED					
Name (Print/Type) Eric		t/Type	e) Eric J. Robinson Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 38,285						
S	Signature			5 ic. Date 12-15-03					
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION									
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:									
1	Vame	(Prin	t/Type	e)					
5	Signature Ashle MStamper Date 12.15.03								

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS: SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)	Group Art Unit: 2811		
Shunpei YAMAZAKI et al.)	Examiner: S. Crane		
Serial No. 09/535,015)	CERTIFICATE OF MAILING I hereby certify that this correspondence i		
Filed: March 24, 2000)	being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class		
For: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A)	Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or /2./5.03		
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE)			
		_ Oldele M Stamper_		
		/		

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated November 17, 2003, please consider the following amendments and remarks in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 12 of this paper.

DEC 19 2003 TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800